Telecom Centres In Kerala

906. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Telecom Centres working in Kerala, District-wise;

(b) whether the Government have given any directions for operation of Telecom Centres for 24 hours;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to open some more Telecom Centres in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the total number of Telecom Centres working in Kerala district-wise are :

Alleppey	-	5
Ernakulam	-	17
Idukki	-	1
Kannur	-	3
Kasargode	-	1
Kollam	-	11
Kottayam	-	8
Calicut	-	5
Malappuram	-	3
Palghat	-	5
Pathanamthitta	-	8
Trivandrum	-	15
Trichur	-	5
Wyannad	-	1
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(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far, the requirement of the Telecom Centres in Kerala Circle was during day time only. Also, there is shortage of manpower.

(d) There is no such proposal during this year.

Construction of Wayside Tourist Centres in North Bengal

907. PFOF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct wayside tourist centres in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). The Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 13.94 lakhs for construction of a wayside facility at Raiganj in distt. North Dinajpur and an amount of Rs. 3.00 lakhs has been released in the year 1995-96 for starting the work on this project. The State Government have prepared detailed design and estimates for this wayside facility and the construction work will start after this monsoon. Other facilities such as tourist lodges, yatri niwas and tented accommodation have also been sanctioned in the North Bengal region.

(c) Does not arise.

Security Lapses in Indira Gandhi International Airport

908. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing security lapses in the handling and checked-in baggage in the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the direction given to various Airlines to undertake proper screening of the checked-in baggage; and

(d) the steps taken to detect the ammunition and explosive properly so that they are not smuggled at the Indira Gandhi International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All airlines have been instructed to undertake, (i) proper screening of checked-in baggage through X-ray Baggage Inspection System (BIS) installed at the Airport and (ii) 10% to 20% random physical check.

(d) X-ray BIS is used to detect ammunition and explosives. Suspicious baggage are physically checked. Besides, the services of Dog Squad and Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad are also utilised to detect explosives.

Closure of Channel DD-3

909. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down Doordarshan channel three;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the Doordarshan; and

(d) the reasons for failure of this channel in providing any return to the advertisers for their consumer products?